

Assembly Bill No. 1671

CHAPTER 1060

An act relating to fish and game, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 30, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1671, Keeley. Fish and Game Preservation Fund: appropriation.

(1) Existing law continuously appropriates money in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund to the Department of Fish and Game to pay all necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the Fish and Game Code and any other law for the protection and preservation of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish. Moneys are deposited in the fund from, among other sources, revenues collected by the department from license fees and commercial fishing landing taxes.

This bill would transfer \$7,000,000 from the General Fund to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, thereby making an appropriation.

(2) The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) El Niño climatic conditions in 1997 and 1998 caused a collapse of the squid fishery and depressed other fisheries, and as a result, landing taxes paid to the Department of Fish and Game from commercial fisheries plummeted by more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in 1998.

(b) Extreme El Niño climatic conditions dramatically delayed or reduced sport fishing opportunities across the state, and as a result, sport fishing license fees paid to the department plummeted by more than six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in 1998.

(c) The department depends on these commercial and sport fishing taxes and fees to fund base programs, including fishing and hunting programs.

SEC. 2. The sum of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to ensure that the Department of Fish and Game is able to adequately execute its statutory duties relating to fish and wildlife management and environmental review, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

